

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 020556

66

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/CCT:RPMYERS:NWH

APPROVED BY: S/CCT:RAFEAREY

S/S:LMACFARLANE

----- 057803

P 280020Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY

INFO USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CNO PRIORITY

OSD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020556

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 0423 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
ASMARA BEIRUT CAIRO JIDD KHARTOUM LONDON ROME 26 JAN

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0423

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY

SUBJECT: LETTER TO LEN CAMPBELL FROM PLF LEADER

OSMAN SABBE

REF: DAMASCUS 0414

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DELIVERED TO EMBASSY
JAN. 25 BY ERITREAN EMISSARY FOR MR. LEN CAMPBELL,
FATHER OF STEVEN CAMPBELL, FROM OSMAN SALEH SABBE.
IT IS IN RESPONSE TO MR. CAMPBELL'S LETTER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 020556

(STATE 011610) WHICH EMBOFF DELIVERED TO SABBE

JAN. 24 (DAMASCUS 0414): QUOTE DEAR LEN CAMPBELL,
I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER THROUGH THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS IN WHICH YOU EXPRESSED DEEP
CONCERN ABOUT THE DETENTION OF YOUR SON STEVEN
CAMPBELL BY OUR REVOLUTIONARY FIGHTERS IN ERITREA.
I UNDERSTAND QUITE RIGHTLY YOUR ANXIETY AS A FATHER
ABOUT THE FATE OF STEVEN. STEVEN OR ANY OTHER
INDIVIDUAL UNDER DETENTION BY OUR REVOLUTION ARE
INNOCENT PEOPLE AS FAR AS THEIR PERSONS IS CONCERNED.
BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, MANY A TIME, INNOCENT PEOPLE
BECOME THE VICTIMS OF WAR. THE ISSUE IN WHICH
THEY ARE INVOLVED IS A POLITICAL ONE WHERE OUR
REVOLUTIONISTS ARE REACTING -- IN THEIR OWN WAY --
AGAINST AMERICAN WEAPONS KILLING THEIR PEOPLE AND
DESTROYING THEIR VILLAGES INDISCRIMINATELY.
HOWEVER, WE AS THE FOREIGN MISSION OF THE REVOLUTION
DISAGREE WITH OUR FIGHTERS IN THE MATTER OF DETAINING
ANY FOREIGNER FOR WHATEVER REASON UNLESS HE HIMSELF
IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE WAR AGAINST OUR PEOPLE.
OUT OF THIS PRINCIPLE WE ARE TRYING OUR BEST TO
RELEASE YOUR SON AND OTHERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
AND WITHOUT PRECONDITION WITH MUCH HOPE TO ACHIEVE
SUCCESS. A SPECIAL ENVOY HAS BEEN SENT THIS WEEK
FOR THIS PURPOSE.
I ASSURE YOU ALSO THAT STEVEN AND HIS COLLEAGUES
ARE RECEIVING KIND TREATMENT AND ARE SUPPLIED WITH
THEIR NEEDS TO THE BEST POSSIBLE CAPACITY. PLEASE
CONVEY MY SINCERE GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO HIS
WIFE AND MY HOPE THAT HE WILL JOIN HER SOON. WITH REGARDS,
YOUR SINCERELY, OSMAN SALEH SABBE, PLF SPOKESMAN UNQUOTE.

2. LETTER DATED JAN. 25. LETTERHEAD STATES: QUOTE
ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT, PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FORCES
FOREIGN MISSION, P.O. BOX 2102, DAMASCUS UNQUOTE.

3. LETTER ACCOMPANIED BOOK BY SABBE ENTITLED
"HISTORY OF ERITREA" AND TWO COPIES OF ERITREAN
DRAFT CONSTITUTION ENTITLED "A DRAFT FOR THE
CONSTITUTION, INTERNAL ORGANIZATION, POLITICAL AND
OPERATION PROGRAM." HEADING OF CONSTITUTION SAME
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 020556

AS ABOVE PARA TWO SANS P.O. BOX, LETTER DOCUMENT
IS IN ENGLISH AND WILL BE FORWARDED UNDER COVER
AIRGRAM TO DEPT. DEPT. PLEASE ADVISE WHAT
DISPOSITION IT WISHES MADE OF SABBE'S "HISTORY",
WHICH IS IN ARABIC.

5. SABBE HAS A RESIDENCE IN DAMASCUS AND, ACCORDING
TO MFA SOURCE, IS RELATIVELY WEALTHY. HE WOULD

PROBABLY BE AMENABLE TO FURTHER EXCHANGES WITH LEN
CAMPBELL, EITHER WRITTEN OR TELEPHONIC, IF DEPT
THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE HELPFUL.
MURPHY UNQUOTE KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, LIBERTION FRONTS, NEGOTIATIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE020556
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/CCT:RPMYERS:NWH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760031-0756
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760113/aaaaakzt.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 DAMASCUS 414
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO LEN CAMPBELL FROM PLF LEADER OSMAN SABBE
TAGS: PINS, ACOM, CASC, SY, ELF, PLF, (SABBE, OSMAN)
To: FRANKFURT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006